

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, BC
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS CHIEPE-
VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER GAOSITWE K.T. CHIEPE PLANS TO VIST
EUROPE AND THE US OCTOBER 17-27 WITH FINAL THREE DAYS IN
WASHINGTON. PURPOSE IS PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS MINERALS AFFAIRS.
MINISTER REQUESTS COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY OF INTERIOR,
MEETINGS WITH BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICIALS
AS WELL AS IN STATE AND AID. ACTION REQUESTED: ASSISTANCE
IN DEVELOPING SCHEDULE FOR THREE DAYS IN WASHINGTON AND
SPECIFICALLY: A) PROMPT INDICATION AS TO WHETHER COURTESY
CALL ON SECRETARY OF INTERIOR CAN BE SCHEDULED OCTOBER 25,
AND B) SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH BUREAU OF MINES,
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND STATE/AID OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. CHARLES JOHNSON, AMCIT AND FORD FOUNDATION FUNDED
PRINCIPAL ADVISOR IN GOB MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES,
WATER AFFAIRS AND ENERGY, CALLED ON ME AUGUST 28 TO SAY
THAT MINISTER CHIEPE, ACCOMPANIED BY PERMSEC JULIAN
NGANUNU AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER PERSON, PLANS A TWO
WEEK TRIP TO EUROPE AND THE US IN THE SECOND HALF OF
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OCTOBER. AFTER ASKING THAT THE SUBJECT BE KEPT IN
CONFIDENTIAL CHANNELS UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS ARE FIRM,
JOHNSON SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DR. CHIEPE'S
TRIP WAS TO MAKE CONTACTS AMD ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS
THAT WILL ENABLE HER TO MAKE BETTER INFORMED DECISIONS
IN HIGHLY COMPLEX MINERALS SECTOR. A SIMILAR VISIT
BY MINISTER CHIEPE TO AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN LAST YEAR

HAD PROVED EXTREMELY USEFUL, JOHNSON SAID, POINTING TO A MORNING NEWSPAPER REPORT OF THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER JAPANESE DELEGATION LOOKING INTO COAL PURCHASES. JOHNSON WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE VISIT TO EUROPE AND THE US WAS ESSENTIAL AND WOULD BE EQUALY PRODUCTIVE. HE SPOKE OF MRS. CHIEPE'S NEED TO ACQUIRE CONFIDENCE IN DEALING WITH COMPLICATED MINERALS QUESTIONS.

3. ITINERARY: JOHNSON OUTLINED THE ITINERARY DEVELOPED THUS FAR:

--A. OCTOBER 17-21: VISITS TO (UNSPECIFIED) WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT AND LEADING PRIVATE COMPANIES;

--B. OCTOBER 23-24: MEETINGS IN NEW YORK WITH LEADING AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES, PRINCIPALLY MINERALS COMPANIES, BEING ARRANGED BY JOHNSON THROUGH HIS OWN CONTACTS;

--C. OCTOBER 25-27: PLANNED VISIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C. WHICH JOHNSON HAD CONSIDERED IN ONLY A PRE-LIMINARY WAY. HIS FIRST THOUGHT, GIVEN PRUPOSE OF THE TRIP, WAS TO PAY COURTESY VISIT ON SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ANDRUS ON THE FIRST DAY, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25, OF HER WASHINGTON, D.. VISIT. JOHNSON THOUGHT THIS WOULD HELP "SET THE TONE" FOR LATER MEETINGS SHE WOULD LIKE WITH BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. JOHNSON SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW DIRECTORS OF BUMINES AND USGS. THE SPECIFIC AGENDA WOULD BE USG APPROACH TO MINERALS POLICY, COMMODITIES FORECASTING DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS, POSSIBILITY OF USG ASSISTANCE IN MINERALS EXPLORATION IN BOTSWANA, IMPROVED SATELLITE DATA AND DISCUSSION OF WATER, SOLAR ENERGY AND SMALL MINING PROJECTS. I SAID WE WOULD INQUIRE AND OBTAIN RE-COMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO USE ONE AND A HALF DAYS IN INTERIOR MOST PRODUCTIVELY.

4. AT JOHNSON'S INVITATION TO ADD SUGGESTIONS, I SAID I HOPED DR. CHIEPE MIGHT HAVE TIME TO CALL ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID OFFICIALS. HE AGREED THAT DR. CHIEPE, AS ARTICULATE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE LEAD MINISTRY IN BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY, AS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE CABINET (AND ONE OF TWO IN PARLIAMENT), AS STUDENT OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT WITH URGENT PROJECT REQUESTS OF HER OWN (E.G., IN WATER AFFAIRS), HER VIEWS WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO BOTH STATE AND AID. JOHNSON WELCOMED THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETINGS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE MINISTER CHIEPE WOULD BE PLEASED IF A HALF DAY OF SUCH CONTACTS COULD BE

ARRANGED. THESE MEETINGS, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTIONS
EMANATING FROM INTERIOR CONTACTS, WOULD NO DOUBT
FILL THE REMAINING TIME OF HER VISIT. JOHNSON AGREED
AND NOTED THE MINISTER MIGHT ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS
TARIFF PREFERENCES, POSSIBLE EXPORT CREDITS FOR US
EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS THAT WOULD ARISE.
FYI: JOHNSON SAID DIAMONDS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ON
LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH USG OFFICIALS
BOTH BECAUSE US IS NOT CONSIDERED "PARTICULARLY WELL
INFORMED" AND BECAUSE OF "MARKETING PROBLEMS" WHICH
STEM FROM DEBEERS MARKETING MONOPOLY. END FYI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING
SCHEDEULE FOR MINISTER CHIEPE'S ANTICIPATED THREE DAY
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VISIT, OCTOBER 25-27 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (B) PROMPT
INDICATION AS TO WHETHER COURTESY CALL CAN BE
ARRANGED WITH SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ANDRUS, AND
(C) RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING OTHER MEETINGS AS
REQUESTED ABOVE.

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